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A New Horizon for Saint Joseph's College

By Tina Carroll

As students begin to settle into their dorms, reacquaint themselves with old friends, and get accustomed to their new routine, Dr. Ernest Mills III finds himself up against many of the same challenges, perhaps on a bit larger scale.

Since his arrival to Saint Joseph's College on July 9, Mills has been busy. Not only has he been familiarizing himself with the many facets of St. Joseph's College and his duties as President, but he's also had to deal with some of the challenges associated with moving. In order to finalize the sale of their new home, Mills was forced to move to Rensselaer early, leaving his wife, Liz behind.

However, since their home was not yet available and all their possessions were in New York, Mills occupied a room in Schwieterman Hall, or what he calls the "Ellis Island of St. Joe" until Mrs. Mills joined him in late August.

"I was only living amongst students for a week or two. I don't think I gave the RA too much trouble," he joked.

Dr. Mills has an extensive and impressive background in higher education. He holds a Master's degree in philosophy, as well as a Doctoral degree in law. Dr. Mills was both a Philosophy professor and Dean of Students at Canaan College in New Hampshire, and at Wheeling College in West Virginia, before working as the Vice President for Development at Mount Saint Mary's College in Newburgh. When asked to recall his fondest memory from his college days, he said, "During my sophomore year, I became conscious of the fact that I could really write. All of a sudden words came. I literally woke up one day and I could not stop writing. I was just amazed."

He added, "I think a lot of students have that. You go back to school and you can do something a lot better than you used to be able to the year before."

Mills said the hardest part about making the transition from the East Coast to the Midwest was the family and friends that he had to leave behind, namely his two sons Benjamin and Richard and their wives.

However, Mills was quick to say that "anywhere in the United States is only three hours away by plane," and both

Dr. Ernest Mills III Embraces a new beginning at SJC

he and his wife were excited to move to the Midwest. He added that many students may be called on to move to another region or country to pursue a career or take a new job.

"You have to have a positive attitude. I've never lived in the Midwest. I think it's remarkable. You only go around once in life; Why not experience something new?" he said.

Mills said there were a number of factors which set Saint Joseph's College apart from other job opportunities.

"I only wanted to work at a Catholic, liberal arts college. I consider it my ministry. It gives you the motivation to really work hard when you're doing something you believe in," he said.

He added that SJC was also a perfect fit for him because it was outside of the market area of Mount Saint Mary's College. He went on to explain that if he had taken a position at another school within his former market area, he would literally be recruiting good students away from other good schools and he did not want to do that.

"I realized Saint Joe was a school

We are talking about strengthening all the programs which encourage students to grow and develop themselves both in and out of the classroom. This translates into better resident life programs, more study abroad opportunities, more internships, more faculty in each major, more courses, field trips – everything that enriches the curriculum available to the students because that's what we're all about. The ball that you have to keep your eye on is the development of the programs of the college so the students have a richer experience overall."

Mills also gave his approval for the current development and improvement plan.

"It covers in an honest and incredible way a reasonable direction for the college to pursue – the things that Saint Joseph should be about."

Mills realizes that in order to accomplish his goals, he will have to concentrate on strengthening the endowment, as well as increasing alumni support. He stressed the importance of having alumni give back to the college. During Homecoming weekend when Dr. Mills addresses the alumni he will encourage them to "make Saint Joe one of their top three charities," he said adding, "they went to school here. They have a degree from here. Our destiny and theirs are wedded for life."

While he realizes that much of his time will be spent working with the Board of Trustee members, administrators and faculty, Dr. Mills is very eager to meet more of the students.

"I do not have an appointment policy and students are always welcome to stop by. Already I have attended some athletic events, witnessed a student government meeting and visited with students in the cafeteria. I would like the students to see me as a support person – someone who is capable and willing to help them achieve their education. I am definitely pro-their success."

Mills also witnessed firsthand at registration how devoted the faculty are to the educational advancement and achievement of the students. "As soon as I walked in I noticed about fifteen faculty members, representing the different areas of study, standing against the wall

of the Ballroom. That type of faculty turnout is unheard of! To have them volunteer to come out to make sure that students get a helping hand in registering for the right courses and sit there all day for the students – the students should recognize that that is unusual.

It's a very pleasant surprise and the students should be grateful to have such dedicated teachers."

Mills offered some words of wisdom to new Pumas.

"The hardest thing to do is learn self-inspection.

You have the freedom to control what you do. One of the things college does is ask students to examine their own lifestyles and to set up a new style which makes room for those wonderful goals and objectives that sent them to college in the first place," he said.

For the seniors preparing to leave, Mills had this to say: "You have an ideal life here at Saint Joe. It is la la land compared to the real world, where you may not have the support system of friends and faculty, the prepared meals, and the numerous weekend activities that are available. And we are set up this way so that students can do one thing, and do one thing often and well, and that is to learn."

He added that when students enter the real world, they are not only going to be asked to study and learn, but also to perform and produce.

"Many seniors may not know what they want to do when they graduate from Saint Joe and that's not a bad thing. Last year at this time, I never envisioned that I would be sitting here as the President of Saint Joe. Things come up and you have to be able to assess them honestly. Life's always going to have a whole new set of challenges."

Expect to see Mills popping up around campus over the next few months as he is anxious to meet as many students as possible. He asks that the college community be patient with him.

"I have to learn over a thousand new names and faces," he said.



New SJC President Ernest Mills III at his inauguration Aug. 24 in the chapel.



Ernest Mills III with his wife, Liz

that I could be very loyal to, and it became the ideal spot."

Mills also expressed he was looking for an institution where he could utilize his strengths and talents to better the college community. Two areas which Mills plans to focus on are marketing and fundraising as those are his strong suits and also areas which Saint Joe had already planned to improve. This academic year, Mills plans to strengthen the finances of the college and to increase enrollment.

As far as the big picture, he said the ultimate goal is "to provide better educational opportunities to all the students.

New Chaplain Eases into Student Life

By Bree Ma' Aytch



S a i n t
Joseph's
College

has been keeping itself busy. Dr. Ernest Mills III was inaugurated as its new President on August 23 and, over the summer, Rev. Dr. Daniel Torson, C.P.P.S., was hired as the new College chaplain and campus ministry director.

Although this is his first year here, Torson is familiar with SJC. He has been a member of the Missionaries of the Precious Blood (C.P.P.S.), the organization that sponsors the college, for 12 years, and ordained for 11.

"I was impressed with the college's staff and its achievements in campus ministry," he said.

Torson is also teaching two sections of Core 9, using what he calls "an integrated approach" to learning.

"For example, when it comes to teaching scripture, I like to teach the social, political, cultural and historical aspects of it as well. I want my students to have a knowledge of people during the time periods we talk about, and what events were going on at that time, so that scrip-

ture isn't seen in isolation of culture," he explained.

And he has enough experience to do so. Torson has a Bachelor's Degree in Music Education from the University of Nebraska in Lincoln, a Master's of Divinity and a Master's of Liturgy from St. John's University in Minn., and a Doctorate of Ministry from the Pacific School of Religion in Berkeley, Calif.

But the new chaplain isn't just interested in the students' academic life.

"I want to assist young people to discern and claim a faith in God. You can grow up as a Catholic or Methodist all your life, but until you take a stand and say, 'Yes, this is what I believe in,' so what?" he said. "My goal is to help those people make that claim."

He admits that society makes it difficult for them to do so.

"Faith and God have become extremely individualistic, and the message is 'Make your faith what you want it to be.' And while everyone has a unique faith journey, the Christian vision calls us to come together and share faith," Torson said. "Also, students bring family problems and difficulties from home, and this affects their growth and maturation as well as the educational progress."

Torson is ready to help students tackle those issues that keep them from God.

"I'm a high energy person. College kids are very energetic, and that energy feeds me," he said.

It's a good thing, because Torson is living among those spirited people in the campus residential halls.

"I've been working with young people for a long time. I don't expect any shocks or surprises," he said. "However, the last two colleges I was at were commuter colleges, so they didn't have dorms, clubs, or sports games. I really think that living on campus adds a different flavor for students."

Torson loves being a part of such activities. In fact, it was one of the main reasons he chose to enter the priesthood.

"I served as a saxophone specialist in Strategic Air Command Band in Omaha, Neb. for two years, and I did a lot of traveling," he said. "It left me with no time for volunteer work, music, helping others. I didn't get a chance to be a part of people's lives. That's what was missing."

Torson looks forward to getting to



Fr. Daniel Torson gives mass

know the students better through campus ministry-sponsored activities. He encourages everyone to sign up for the camping retreat scheduled for the weekend of Sep. 28. The retreat will take place at the Tippecanoe River State Park in Winamac. The cost for the weekend is 25 dollars.

"You can sign up in the campus ministry office. Flyers are available on the bulletin board," he said.



Neal Haskell Brings the *Discovery Channel* to Rensselaer

By Bree Ma' Aytch

On Aug. 31, the *Discovery Channel*, a television station that bases its programming on non-fiction topics such as science, nature and technology, made a special trip to Rensselaer to shoot an episode of "The New Detectives: Case Studies in Forensic Science." The episode will feature Dr. Neal Haskell, forensic science and biology professor at Saint Joseph's College.

"The New Detectives" focuses on forensic science methods used in actual murder cases. This particular episode features the 1994 case of Linda Howell, a woman from Stroud, Okla. that murdered her husband and buried his corpse in her front yard.

Initially, the details surrounding the murder were few. Witnesses reported seeing the couple arguing outside a bar on a Thursday night; the body was found Sunday morning. Howell claimed to have seen her husband for the last time Saturday night. Haskell, whose expertise in entomology is acknowledged in at least 20 states, was called in to identify the time of death.

"With the maggots we found on the body, I was able to determine whether the man had died 36 hours ago or 96 hours

ago. If the woman hadn't been so specific about the last time she saw her husband alive, I never would've been able to tell," he explained.

Haskell's results supported suspicions portion of the episode on campus.

"The crew was quite pleased with everybody involved," Haskell said. "They had nice compliments about Saint Joseph's College and the student body. They said the students were professional and friendly. We broke in on two classes and everyone was very accommodating. They were also pleased and surprised by our campus. They said it was very pretty."

The afternoon consisted of a maggot presentation at Haskell's farm in Pleasant Ridge. He received assistance from some SJC students enrolled in his forensic science classes.

"It was a great experience," Kristy Tiede said. "[Working with Haskell] has given me a chance to do things I never thought I'd do."

Tiede is a biochemistry major completing her last year at SJC. After graduation, she hopes to pursue a master's degree in forensic science and obtain work in a crime laboratory or in investigations.

"I started out wanting to baby-sit pets and open up my own business," she laughed. "Then I took one of [Haskell's] classes, was intrigued by him, and I've gotten to do things I've never dreamed of doing. He's been instrumental to what I want to do."

This is not the first time Haskell has been featured in "The New Detectives." His "Web of Clues" episode aired from May 1997 to May 1998. He is also scheduled to appear on a new FOX television show called "Post Mortem." No airdate has been released at this time.

Haskell's is also a familiar name in print media. He was featured in this year's August edition of "Maxim" magazine. The article discussed the Simon and Schuster book, "Dead Reckoning," which deals with insects and the role they play in death investigations, for which Haskell wrote a chapter.

Haskell's episode of "The New Detectives" is scheduled to air in approximately four months. To check for specific airdates, log on to www.newdetectives.com, click on "New Detectives" and type in 1581.

Students, faculty and members of the Rensselaer community gathered in the Saint Joseph's College Chapel after the traumatizing events of Tuesday's terrorist attack on America. Father Dan led the service in prayer and song and reflected upon the days events.

photos courtesy of Campus Ministry

Puma Profiles

If you would like to nominate anyone to be profiled in the "Puma Profile" section of *The Observer*, please contact Features Editor Susan Huss at shg3609@saintjoe.edu or at extension 6301. Any student, faculty or staff nominations would be welcomed.

Next issue: New Student Activities Director, Dottie Collura and Junior Bree Hopkins

Pumas Sharpen Claws for Homecoming

— By Melissa Genova —

The resonance of determination rings throughout SJC campus. "I have never lost a homecoming game in my life. I am not about to start now," announces freshman Tony Salati, defensive line for the SJC football team. A wealth of confidence is apparent in many of the Puma Football players when confronted about the Homecoming game, which will be held on this Saturday, the 15th.

At noon on Saturday, the Pumas will play against the Shepard College Rams, who are in the midst of a small winning streak with 2-0. However, the Puma football team hopes to break the streak for the Rams and have their first win of the season. Sophomore Josh Mehay, left defensive guard, is not worried about the odds. "They are a pretty good team. It is always a challenge when we play against them, and it is something I can always look forward to."

Although SJC has not had a victorious Homecoming game in a few years, they are hoping that with a new roster the game will be in their favor. "We have an entirely different team than last year from a dedication standpoint," explained Ron Mason, wide receiver. "I think we are better off than last year's team."

Senior Montell Pace, safety, shows his assertion for this year's big game. "I guarantee we are going to come out like a pack of wild dogs."

Aggressiveness and new talent

played hard, and I am proud of them. I hope we do better the next game," said Pace.

Mason does not dwell on past games' mistakes, but finds it better to

learn from them. "It is a new week. We are trying to get off it. [The St. Francis game] was a tough loss, but we are over it. We are preparing for this week."

A similar motto is

prevalent in his fellow teammates. "We have looked a lot better in these last couple of weeks, and I think we are better this year than last. I hope we look better this week," said sophomore offensive lineman, Richard Sallee.

The team is no doubt preparing themselves for an exciting, and hopefully winning, homecoming game.



are two reasons to see the Homecoming game. Despite the odds being on their side, luck has not been. Saint Joseph's College football losted their first away game on Sep. 10. The game was against University of St. Francis in Joliet, Ill. The final score was 23-20, after two overtimes. The team's status fell to 0-2.

The losses have not discouraged the players. They have remained confident in their abilities. "Everyone

Starting the season off with a Bang, Kick, A-par, and a Whack!

Puma Sports in Short

Information provided
— by Joe Danahy —

The Men's Golf team hosted and won the 12-team invitational held on Friday, Sep. 7. Their final score was a 298, but the team was lead by Ryan Messner and Mike Cronkhite who each had a 73.

The Puma Cross Country teams were both successful at the Taylor Invite on Sep. 8. The women's team placed fourth out of twelve teams, while the men's team came out of the invite with a second place.

In Women's Soccer, the team lost to Findlay on Sep. 8. However, the next night, they won against Clarion University with a 3-0.

The men's soccer team had a similar fate that weekend. Saturday's game was lost to Saginaw Valley State with a score of 4-1. The tables turned that Sun-

day, though, and SJC beat Hillsdale College. The score was 4-2, with Joe Burns scoring all four goals.

The women's tennis team lost their matches during the weekend, playing against SIU Edwardsville on Sep. 9, with a score of 6-3. Individual winners were as follows: Jill LaBarge won at #2 singles, Tiffany Sajdera

won at #4 singles, and Katie Davet was a winner at #5 singles.

They also lost the matches the following Saturday with a 5-4 to St. Louis-Missouri, and a 6-3 to Quincy. Individual winners for St. Louis-Mis-

souri were LaBarge at #2 and Missy Bachani at #3 (7-5, 6-3). The team was successful with the #2 doubles 8-5 by Bachani/Sajdera and the #3 team of Davet/Loretta Clevenger won 9-7.

At the Quincy match, the individual winners Labarge at #2 singles, Katie Davet at #5 singles, and Clevenger at #6 singles.

And don't forget Pumas: this weekend at noon is the Homecoming football game, as well as women's and men's soccer home games on Friday. The women's game starts at 5 p.m. and the men's game follows at 7:30 p.m.

Want To Be a Hero?

March of Dimes Offers That Chance to Students

You CAN be a hero to millions of children all around the world by joining us in the March of Dimes Walk this year on Saturday October 27, 2001. The walk will begin around 3pm Saturday afternoon with the starting and finishing point at Rensselaer Central High School. Prizes will be awarded for different things such as the most money made

overall, in each team, and there will also be fun, games, and free food. March of Dimes is an organization that was established by FDR in 1938 to defeat polio. In 1958, the March of Dimes brought their formidable partnership to bear against another, even greater, challenge--birth defects, the nation's number one child health problem. Now it is up to us to help support the March of Dimes so that millions more lives might be saved. If you would like to help out by walking and/or raising money, please contact Dannielle at dpg3749@saintjoe.edu or by phone at 8664.

If anybody is interested in contributing their talents to the *Observer*, email Melissa at mgg3598@saintjoe.edu

Upcoming Events

Sep. 13: Volleyball/HOME
Morton College 7 p.m.

Sep. 14-15: Men's Golf/AWAY
Ferris State Fall Invite 8:30 a.m.

Sep. 14:
Women's Cross Country/AWAY
Indiana Intercollegiates (West Lafayette) 4 p.m.

Men's Cross Country/AWAY
Indiana Intercollegiates (West Lafayette) 4:30 p.m.

Women's Soccer/HOME
Missouri-St. Louis 5 p.m.

Men's Soccer/HOME
Missouri-St. Louis 7:30 p.m.

Softball/AWAY
South Suburban (Orland Park) 5 p.m.

Sep. 15
Women's Tennis/HOME
Lewis University 9 a.m.

Baseball (Alumni Exhibition)
9:30 a.m.

Men's Soccer (Alumni exhibition)
10:30 a.m.

Football/HOMECOMING
Shepard College 12 p.m.

Volleyball/AWAY
N. Kentucky University 2 p.m.

Tennis/Co-Ed (Alumni Exhibition)
4 p.m.

Softball/AWAY
Kankakee Community College 4 p.m.

Sep. 18
Men's Soccer/AWAY
Indiana Wesleyan 7 p.m.

Women's Soccer/HOME
Northwoods 7:30 p.m.

Sep. 19
Volleyball/HOME
St. Xavier University 7 p.m.

Sep. 21
Volleyball/AWAY
Lewis University 7 p.m.

Men's Soccer/AWAY
Kentucky Wesleyan 7:30 p.m.

Women's Soccer/AWAY
Kentucky Wesleyan 12:30 p.m.

Celebrate September

Sept 1st	Chicken Boy's Birthday
Sept 4th	Newspaper Carrier Day
Sept 6th	Labor Day
Sept 8th	Do It! Day
Sept 12th	National Grandparents Day
Sept 13th	National Boss/Employee Exchange Day
Sept 17th	National Student Day
Sept 21st	World Gratitude Day
Sept 22nd	Nathon Landmon's Birthday
Sept 24th	Jim Henson's Birthday
Sept 26th	Shamu's Birthday

courtesy of www.learnserv.com

To Eric

By Nicholas T. Schafer

While I was still too short to reach the counter

I played on your front lawn, saving the world.

You came by with the lawn mower, playing along,
Cutting a fresh maze in the grass,
seeing if I would follow.

We went on playing, day after day,
All through the summer, for years on end.

At ten we stopped playing.
You became too old, I still too young.
I began to mow your lawn.
Still we remained friends.

At fourteen you left me. All at once
you were gone. I didn't understand
why. I cried. Raising my head,
I sought answers from the stars.
They never answered.

By your lamp, new flowers rise in the spring
They are large and full, just the way
you liked them.
I am not alone anymore. I have many
brothers and sisters.
But I still miss you.
If we see each other again, it will be in
Paradise

If you are interested in having
your creative writing published in the Observer,
please email
Nick Schafer at
nsf3156@saintjoe.edu

If you have an opinion,
exercise your right to be
heard! Write the Observer!
Contact Mandy Meyers at
mme2712@saintjoe.edu

Support Your Resident Assistants!

Mark your calander
for the upcoming events in your dorm.

Who: Second Floor Halas Residents
What: Motivational Movie Night
When: Tuesday, September 18th, 2001, 8 p.m.
Where: Second Floor Halas Lounge
Notes: Social/Wellness/Educational/Floor
By: RA Betsy Fryksdale

Who: Halas Second Floor Residents
What: Ice Cream Social/Partner Up for A Day
When: Wednesday, September 19th, 2001, 8 p.m.
Where: Halas Second Floor Lounge
Notes: Ice Cream, Toppings, Soda/Water Social, Floor
By: RA Betsy Fryksdale

Who: All Bennett Residents
What: Career Night
When: Tuesday, September 25, 2001, 7 p.m.
Where: Bennett First Lounge
Notes: Educational, Social, Hall
By: Mike Cronkhite & Travis Lechien

Who: Halas Hall Residents
What: Halas Dance
When: Friday, September 28th, 2001, 8 p.m. to 2 a.m.
Where: Outside Halas
Notes: Social, Building, Campus
By: RA Betsy Fryksdale

Who: Justin West 3rd Residents

What: Let's Have Breakfast Together!
When: Saturday, October 6, 2001, 9 a.m.
Where: Cafeteria
Notes: Social
By: RA-Andrea Horst

Who: Justin West First Floor, All Justin Residents
What: Pizza With Professors
When: Tuesday, October 9, 2001, 6 p.m.
Where: Second Floor Justin Lounge
Notes: Susan Chatin will be discussing her summer trip to Africa and has some items to show
By: RA-Karen Greig

Who: Justin West Third Floor Residents
What: Pumpkin Painting
When: Tuesday, October 30, 2001, 9 p.m.
Where: Justin Second Floor Lounge
Notes: Social
By: RA-Andrea Horst

Who: Justin West First Floor, All Justin Residents
What: Pizza With Professors
When: Wednesday, November 7, 2001, 6 p.m.
Where: Second Floor Justin Lounge
Notes: Dr. Seely (Statistics) will be present to discuss and answer questions
By: RA-Karen Greig

Career Center Connections

Brown Bag Luncheon Series

By Kelli Bridges

Welcome back everyone, we all hope you had a great summer. The Career Center is all geared up for this year with some new programs that will help you get on the right track, whether you are a freshman or a senior. Barb Robertson, director of the Career Center, is starting a series called Brown Bag Luncheons. The Luncheons will occur every Thursday at noon in the Career Center Library located on the second floor of Halleck. The point of the Luncheons is for you to bring your lunch (either get it to go from the Café or pack your own) and come to the library where various topics will be discussed. Topics that will be discussed are "Job Search Skills", "Creating Your Resume", "Interviewing", "How to Market Yourself" to name a few. These sessions should be very helpful to you as you jump on board and get your career on track. If you have individual questions or cannot make it to a session your interested in, you may call the Career Center at ext. 6116 and schedule an appointment with Barb Robertson.

Our prayers go out to all of Tuesday's victims and their families. May their souls rest in eternal peace with God, our Father.

Jurassic Park Claws its Way Back to the Big Screen

By Mike Potts

In its third outing *Jurassic Park* did it again. Its mammoth hype soared it amazingly close to box office highs, but the movie magic of the past prehistoric adventures went unmatched. The trilogy should never have been bred and should have gone extinct while it was still on top.

The movie opens with Eric (Trevor Morgan), a 14-year old boy, parasailing with his mother's boyfriend dangerously close to the island of Isla Sorna, the ungovernable site of John Hammand's amusement park gone wrong. The boat disappears under a cluster of clouds, only to reappear without a crew. The two parasailors cut loose and steer themselves to the island.

Enter Dr. Alan Grant. Played once again by Sam Neil, this move may be one of the few that keeps this movie afloat. Grant, still studying dinosaurs of the non-living variety, this time with young student Billy (Alessandro Nivola),

is offered a small fortune by Eric's parents (William H. Macy and Tea Leoni), disguising themselves as two adventurers interested in the taboo island. Grant and his young assistant give the tour from the comfort of the adventurers' circling plane. But where's the fun in that? The plane inevitably crashes, a few members of the crew are gobbled up, and all of a sudden we are emerged in an action film.

Jurassic Park 3 takes us on a roller-coaster ride, slamming and crashing us through the jungle and pulling us desperately close from the jaws of the island's clever predators, leaving us little time to catch our breath before the next bite. It is 90 minutes of thrills, tense shoulders, and those painful fingernails we bite too close. And yet, somehow I walked out of the theater feeling cheated.

Lost from *Jurassic Park 3* were

the two major ingredients that propelled its two predecessors, director Steven Spielberg, and the mighty T-Rex. But these were not the only absentees. The intellect was missing, the determination of it all. Just an action movie, that's all I thought walking away. Where were the lessons to be learned, the lesson that we are not God? Where was the wit or awe-inspiring images?

Still intact were that characters, Dr. Grant, and even a brief visit from Ellie. Correspondingly, the landscape still had me, the beauty of it all, the plush green of the forest as it climbed up the island, you could almost see it pregnant with dew.

But the amazement was gone. The dream and the adventure of man and dinosaur living together that Spielberg took us through, now is just a flickering flame. By the third adventure, the novelty has worn off.